

# TRANSPORTATION



CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY



OFFICE OF BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT

# Las Vegas Redevelopment Agency & City of Las Vegas Office of Business Development

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The Las Vegas Redevelopment Agency (RDA) promotes the redevelopment of downtown Las Vegas and surrounding older commercial districts by working with developers, property owners and the community to accomplish beneficial revitalization efforts, create jobs and eliminate urban decay. The RDA coordinates with the city of Las Vegas Office of Business Development on day-to-day operations, economic development and long-term strategic goals.

The Office of Business Development (OBD) creates, coordinates and encourages new development and redevelopment throughout the city of Las Vegas, with an emphasis on the downtown area. It strives to increase and diversify the city's economic base through business attraction, retention and expansion programs.



# TRANSPORTATION

## *Central Access to Major Markets*

**S**ituated at the hub of the 11-state western region, Las Vegas is ideally located for companies seeking cost-effective, rapid access to major domestic and international markets.

With a market area of more than 51 million people within one day's drive, firms can take advantage of Nevada's low taxation and operational costs while capitalizing on the ease of shipping to a multitude of states including California, one of the world's largest marketplaces.

Las Vegas is strategically positioned for access to California's vast technology resources while escaping the costs and barriers of doing business there.

**Las Vegas offers a market area of more than 51 million people within one day's drive.**

Source: The Nevada Development Authority and the state of Nevada Commission on Economic Development (September 2009).

## *Foreign Trade Zone*

**A** Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) is a designated U.S. site that provides substantial savings on duties, fees and excise taxes. FTZs allow international importers to bring in foreign goods or raw materials for manufacturing and/or assembling without formal customs entry or payment of customs duties and governmental excise taxes until products leave the zone for domestic distribution.

Southern Nevada's FTZ #89 has six locations, providing potential zone users flexibility in site selection:

1. City of Las Vegas (118 acres)
2. World Market Center Las Vegas
3. Symphony Park
4. McCarran International Airport (160 acres)
5. Hughes Airport Center (25 acres and 292-acre expansion)
6. Las Vegas Convention Center
7. AmPac Development Company Business Park (236 acres)
8. North Las Vegas Business Center (37 acres)

For more information, contact the U.S. Foreign Trade Zones Board at 202.482.2862 or visit <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/ftzpage>. You can also contact the Nevada Development Authority at 702.791.0000 or visit [www.nevadadevelopment.org](http://www.nevadadevelopment.org)

Sources: U.S. Foreign Trade Zones Board; Nevada Development Authority (September 2009).



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## *Airports and Air Cargo*

### **McCarran International Airport**

**M**cCarran International Airport is part of the Clark County Airport System, which also owns and operates four general aviation facilities: North Las Vegas Airport, Henderson Executive Airport, Jean Sport Aviation Center and Overton/Perkins Field. The Airports Council International ranked McCarran the nation's seventh busiest airport in North America during a 12-month period ending in June 2009, with 41.4 million arriving and departing passengers, and an average of approximately 950 daily arrival and departure flights. With nearly 40 air carriers, McCarran offers nonstop scheduled service from Canada, Germany, Mexico, the Philippines, South Korea and the United Kingdom.

More than \$3 billion in capital improvements are planned for McCarran over the next five years. This will enable the airport to reach a sustainable capacity of approximately 53 million travelers per year. Several major construction projects are planned or underway, including roadway improvements and work on the \$1.8-billion Terminal 3. Terminal 3 is planned to open in early 2012. Its opening will add 14 gates, six of which will be designated for international travelers.

The Department of Aviation is proposing an airport in Ivanpah Valley, which will be situated on approximately 6,000 acres about 25 miles south of Las Vegas. It is expected to satisfy the need for additional traffic should McCarran exceed its capacity late in the next decade. The project is undergoing an Environmental Impact Statement study conducted by the Federal Aviation Administration and Bureau of Land Management.

### **Las Vegas International Air Cargo Center**

The International Air Cargo Center at McCarran International Airport enables Las Vegas to serve as a major West Coast air-truck distribution center. Las Vegas is considered an inland port of entry, which allows foreign goods to quickly clear customs. The cargo center is located less than one mile from major interstate highway and railroad access. The 80-acre site is a first-rate cargo handling area with three buildings totaling 166,000 square feet and a Group 4 taxiway and ramp.



**The Airports Council International ranked McCarran the nation's seventh busiest airport in North America.**

Source: Clark County Department of Aviation (September 2009).

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## Ground Transportation Network


Nevada's geographic location "has led to it being known as the distribution hub of the western states," according to the Nevada Commission on Economic Development (NCED). "The state's extensive transportation network provides Nevada companies with fast, efficient access to market." Nevada is also considered a "consuming state, with more freight arriving than leaving. This empty outbound capacity has created a very competitive market and great cost savings for outbound shipments," declares the NCED.

### Trucking

The Nevada Commission on Economic Development states that "from Nevada cities, truck shipments arrive overnight throughout the West, including the important consumer and port cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco." Numerous carriers serve the Las Vegas Valley, offering transcontinental, fast freight and van-line shipping to all major markets.

Source: Nevada Commission on Economic Development.

### Distance To/From Las Vegas



| City                  | Miles | Kilometers |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|
| Albuquerque, N.M.     | 573   | 922        |
| Atlanta, Ga.          | 2,038 | 3,280      |
| Chicago, Ill.         | 1,747 | 2,812      |
| Denver, Colo.         | 747   | 1,202      |
| Houston, Texas        | 1,568 | 2,523      |
| Los Angeles, Calif.   | 270   | 435        |
| New York, N.Y.        | 2,520 | 4,056      |
| Phoenix, Ariz.        | 293   | 472        |
| Portland, Ore.        | 1,020 | 1,642      |
| Reno, Nev.            | 448   | 721        |
| Salt Lake City, Utah  | 420   | 676        |
| San Diego, Calif.     | 337   | 542        |
| San Francisco, Calif. | 570   | 917        |
| Seattle, Wash.        | 1,257 | 2,023      |

Source: Rand McNally (September 2009).

### Rail

Union Pacific Railroad (UP) notes that: "Two Union Pacific main lines cross Nevada. The first spans northern Nevada, linking central California with Salt Lake City. The second runs through the southern part of the state, including Las Vegas. That line connects Los Angeles-Long Beach with Salt Lake City and UP's transcontinental line to eastern destinations.

"Major commodities handled by the railroad in Nevada include coal, chemicals, lumber and consumer goods...Union Pacific is an important link to markets for the industrial complex at nearby Henderson. Union Pacific also serves power plants at Valmy in northern Nevada and Moapa in southern Nevada," according to UP operators.

In the last two years, according to railroad administrators, "UP's engineering renewal program invested \$150 million in track work and facility improvements to ensure safe, reliable transportation."

Source: Union Pacific in Nevada (April 2009).

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## *Regional Transportation*

### **Regional Transportation Commission**

**T**he Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is the transit authority, traffic management agency and transportation planning agency for Southern Nevada. The commission states that its main functions are "providing transportation services within the community, including approval and funding of major arterial and highway construction, developing and maintaining one of the nation's first and most integrated intelligent transportation management systems and operating the Las Vegas Valley's public transit system."

The RTC has received approximately \$73 million for various projects via the federal government's American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). These projects vary from smaller repaving to major transit efforts.

One major project is the RTC's Bonneville Transit Center, located at the intersection of Bonneville Avenue and Casino Center Boulevard in downtown Las Vegas. The RTC broke ground on the facility at the end of August 2009 and is using \$5.5 million in ARRA funds to construct the \$17-million center. This new, 21,000-square-foot transportation facility, scheduled to open in July 2010, will serve as the central hub for the RTC's ACE Rapid Transit system and other transportation services. The Bonneville Transit Center also will cater to bicyclists, with the capacity to store up to 100 bicycles and an on-site, self-service bike repair shop. In an effort to "go green," the RTC is seeking Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification for the facility. To qualify for this certification, the new transit facility will incorporate shade canopies with solar panels to generate electricity, preferred parking for hybrid vehicles and water-efficient landscaping.

### **ACE Transportation**

A commuter transit service called the ACEXpress C Line will provide service from the Centennial Hills area to downtown Las Vegas, starting in spring 2010.

Additionally, the ACE Gold Line will open in the spring of 2010, connecting downtown with the Las Vegas Convention Center and the Las Vegas Strip. The RTC's current MAX Line, which operates on Las Vegas Boulevard North, will become the ACE Blue Line in the spring of 2010. The ACE Green Line will be constructed on Boulder Highway, linking downtown Las Vegas and Henderson. Construction on the ACE Green Line is expected to begin by early 2010.

### **The Deuce on The Strip**

Launched in 2004, Deuce buses have attracted more than 30,000 daily riders, who board the 100-passenger double deck vehicles to travel along the Las Vegas Strip.

### **RTC Transit**

In 2008, the RTC's bus system, known as RTC Transit, served nearly 67 million passengers with a fleet of more than 350 vehicles. The system carries approximately 190,000 passengers per day and more than 60,000 bicycles each month.

| RTC Transit Ridership* |            |            |            |            |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 2004                   | 2005       | 2006       | 2007       | 2008       |
| 51,605,597             | 55,556,540 | 61,003,741 | 63,816,261 | 66,895,932 |

\*Does not include specialized services such as Paratransit.  
Source: Regional Transportation Commission (September 2009).

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## **FAST**

The Freeway and Arterial System of Transportation (FAST) is one of the first truly integrated Intelligent Transportation Systems in the country. FAST is designed to both monitor and control traffic. It analyzes real-time traffic conditions on the freeways and roadways through closed-circuit television cameras and road sensors. From the FAST command center, staff manages traffic control by coordinating more than 80 traffic cameras, a dozen freeway ramp meters, numerous dynamic message signs and the majority of the valley's traffic signals.



The FAST system also provides public access to several of the live traffic cameras on the RTC's Web site, [www.rtcnv.com](http://www.rtcnv.com). The cameras allow drivers to check road conditions before they leave their home or office. Drivers may also sign up to receive e-mail and text message alerts notifying them of traffic incidents.

For more information on the RTC and its many projects, visit [www.rtcnv.com](http://www.rtcnv.com) or call 702.228.RIDE (7433).

Source: The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (September 2009).

## **Bruce Woodbury 215 Beltway**

One of the larger roadway projects currently underway is the completion of the Bruce Woodbury 215 Beltway, a 53-mile freeway around the Las Vegas Valley. The project will ultimately extend from U.S. 95/I-515 in the southeast part of the valley to I-15 in the northeast portion of the valley. A major milestone of this work was completed in 2006, when the section from the city of Henderson to Charleston Boulevard in Las Vegas was converted to the freeway system. Final completion is scheduled for 2013.

For more information visit: [www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/public-works/Pages/beltway.aspx](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/public-works/Pages/beltway.aspx)

## **Las Vegas Monorail**

The Las Vegas Monorail is a seven-stop, elevated train system that travels along a 3.9-mile (6.4-kilometer) route connecting major hotels and attractions along the Las Vegas Strip. It enables passengers to travel the length of this resort corridor in 15 minutes or less. The monorail has stops at MGM Grand, Bally's/Paris, Flamingo/Caesars Palace, Harrah's/Imperial Palace, Las Vegas Convention Center/Sprint Central, Las Vegas Hilton and the Sahara. Hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 2 a.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 7 a.m. to 3 a.m., Friday through Sunday.

The Las Vegas Monorail Company runs the only privately owned, public transportation system in the United States. The monorail is privately funded, utilizing no public funds to build or operate the system.

For more information about the Las Vegas Monorail, visit [www.lvmonorail.com](http://www.lvmonorail.com) or call 702.699.8200.

Source: Las Vegas Monorail Company (September 2009). Revised by Restrepo Consulting Group LLC.

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## *Other Major Transportation Projects*

### **The Hoover Dam Bypass**

According to the consortium of engineering firms building the Hoover Dam Bypass, "construction of the Colorado River Bridge is advancing on the 1,060-foot, twin-rib concrete arch. The Colorado River Bridge is the central portion of the Hoover Dam Bypass Project. Construction on the nearly 2,000-foot-long bridge began in late January 2005. Completion of the entire Hoover Dam Bypass Project is expected in late 2010. When completed, this signature bridge will span the Black Canyon (about 1,600 feet south of the Hoover Dam), connecting the Arizona and Nevada approach highways nearly 900 feet above the Colorado River."

United States Highway 93 (U.S. 93), which runs across Hoover Dam and through the Las Vegas Valley, "has been designated a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) route," according to the aforementioned consortium. "The increasing congestion caused by the switchbacks leading to the Hoover Dam site and the restrictions at the dam crossing led to the development of the Hoover Bypass Project. The Hoover Dam Bypass Project is a 3.5-mile corridor beginning at approximately milepost 2.2 in Clark County, Nevada and crossing the Colorado River approximately 1,500 feet downstream of the Hoover Dam, then terminating in Mohave County, Arizona near milepost 1.7 on U.S. 93."

Additional information about the project can be found at: [www.hooverdambypass.org](http://www.hooverdambypass.org).

Source: HDR Engineering, Inc., T.Y. Lin International and Sverdrup Civil, Inc. (September 2009).



**Aerial photo of Hoover Dam**  
Photo credit: Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority